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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE **Executive Registry** 3680

13 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO/Counterterrorism

FROM: DCI

Charlie,

Looks as though you stole the show at the Bar Association meeting in New York.

William J. Casey



Office of Current Production and Analytic Support

News Bulletin

The New York Times, Page A20

12 August 1986 Item No. 1

F.B.I. CHIEF HAILS GAINS ON TERROR

Cites Cut in Domestic Cases
— but C.I.A. Official Tells
of Rising Cases Abroad

By ELAINE SCIOLINO

15.

William H. Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said yesterday that by applying "lawful techniques," the bureau has been "extraordinarily successful" in reducing incidents of terrorism in the United States in the last six years. He added, "Those principles can be applied on the international stage."

Mr. Webster cited better intelligence, effective law enforcement, increased domestic and international cooperation and a better-informed public as reasons for the decrease. While there were 100 incidents of domestic terrorism in the United States in 1978, he said, that dropped to 13 incidents in 1984 and only 7 last year, when 23 such incidents were prevented.

He did not indicate what those incidents were or which groups or individuals were involved.

The active use of informants, undercover agents and court-ordered electronic surveillance also have contributed to the bureau's success, especially in bringing terrorists to justice.

Mr. Webster made his remarks while participating in an American Bar Association Convention panel on terrorism that brought together Reagan Administration officials, national security, legal and intelligence experts and journalists.

v Calling terrorism a criminal act, he said, "The more we increase our ability to deal with terrorism as a criminal activity, the more successful we will be"

In centrast to the decrease in domestic acts of terrorism, Charles Allen, head of counterterrorism for the Central Intelligence Agency, told the panel that "beyond any doubt" the number of international terrorist attacks has increased in recent years. In 1984, he said, there were almost 800 recorded incidents of terrorism worldwide, as against 500 incidents in the early 1980's.

Attacks Abroad Stepped Up

Mr. Allen said that in the last two years, terrorist attacks have become "more indiscriminate and lethal with little regard for the fate of innocent civilians," that Americans are increasingly the targets of terrorist attacks and that state-supporteed terrorism "has become virtually institutionalized"

He added that there was a tendency for terrorists to attack "softer, less protected targets" such as businesses, hotels and restaurants, a tendency that he predicted would increase.

In an effort to combat terrorism, the C.I.A. and other intelligence agencies have doubled analytical and operational resources in the last two years, Mr. Allen said, adding that increased sharing of intelligence with allies has increased the agency's ability to track terrorist operations, disrupt financial and supply lines and pre-empt terrorist attacks.

The C.I.A., alone and in conjunction with allied intelligence organizations, he said, is also "working actively to penetrate terrorist networks, mount operations to sow seeds of suspicion among the cadres and among the leaders," as well as looking for new technical capabilities to deal with what he called "an unconventional target."

Mr. Allen said the selective use of force "has upped the ante" for state-supported terrorism, adding that such incidents had significantly decreased since the American bombing raid on Libya in April.

The raid was praised as a deterrent to terrorists by a number of other speakers, including Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d, who said that terrorism can not be combated by "conferences or making rules." He praised President Reagan for the Libyan raid, saying, "When someone commits an impermissible act, you swat him."

"A terrorist is kind of like the offense in any kind of sports contest," said Mr. Meese. The terrorist is successful, he added, when governments capitulate to his demands and when he causes such fear among the populace that "society is immobilized."